

Theodore Ashmead.

Tetanus.

admitted March 26th 1822.

at the corner of Wood & Julian St.
Mrs Miller

James Wilson

1790

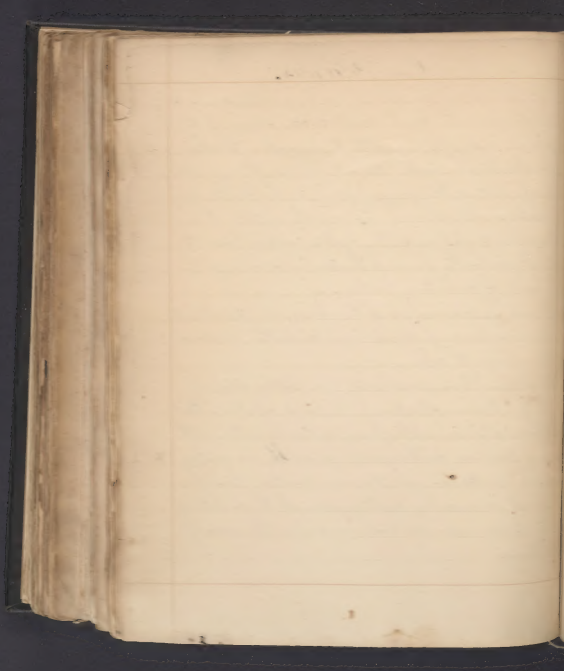
about the 1st of Nov

On Tetanus.

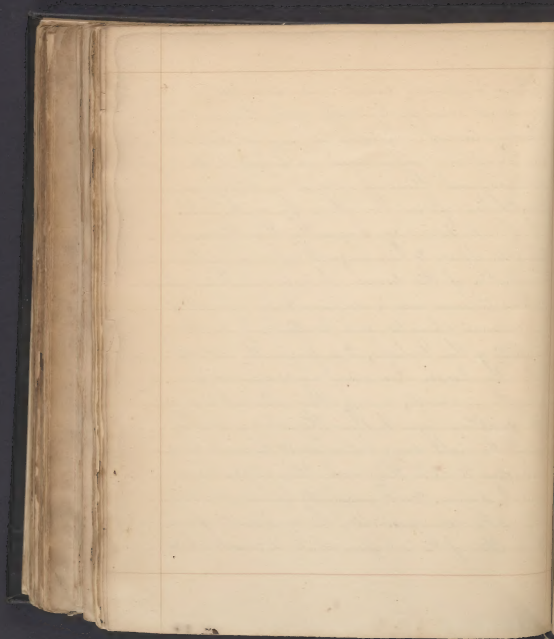
Tetanus has its origin from the Greek word *τετνω*, signifying to prick, and is now adopted to designate a peculiar constitutional disease, without reference to any individual part of the body, which may be particularly affected. The term is now correctly applied to a morbid condition of the system which presents itself under the form of tension, or Spasm, of the Muscles of voluntary motion. -

It may be considered as of two kinds, viz. Symptomatic, the consequence of wounds; and idiopathic, occasioned by exposure to cold. -

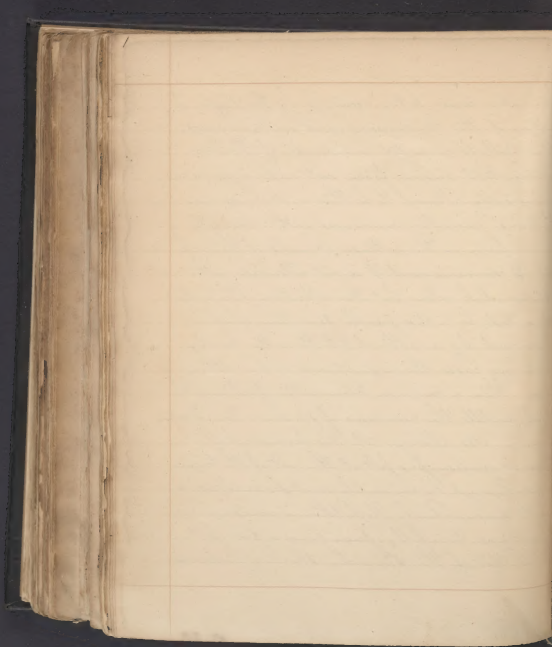
Formerly tetanic complaints were distinguished by the particular situation of the part affected. But these artificial distinctions, neither connected with any peculiar pathological principle, nor relating to any particular indications in practice, have been almost universally rejected; and all the varieties of the disease are now included under the name of Tetanus.



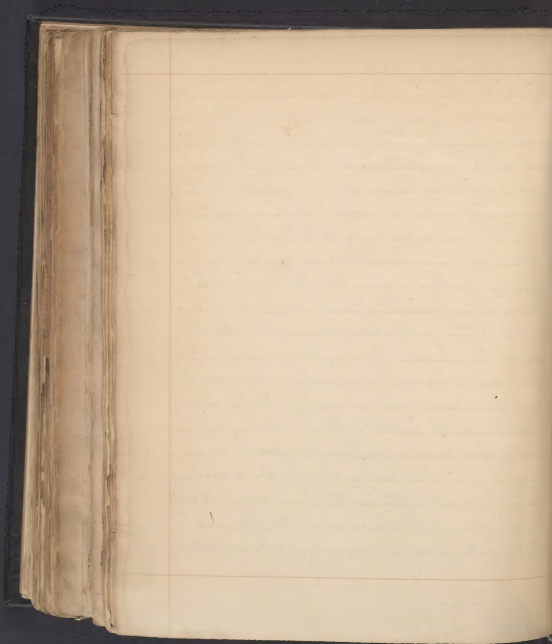
Chancr is of a very ancient date, and has been
considered amongst the most destructive and
deadly diseases. Persons of every age, and either
sex, and all temperaments are Subject to its
attacks, and those of a robust and vigorous
constitution often than those of a weak habit.
The Male Sex more frequently than the female.
Climate appears to have a great influence in the
production of this disease. In cold and temperate
regions its occurrence is comparatively rare; whilst
in warmer climates, and particularly in the
vicinity of the tropicks, it is frequently met with.
When the disease has arisen in consequence of a
lunaticure, wound, or any other external injury,
the symptoms begin to show themselves generally
about the eight day; but when it proceeds from
exposure to cold they make their appearance
much sooner. Much irregularity however occurs in
time of the commencement of the complaint, from
the reception of the impression which is considered as



to exciting cause; but as occasioned by the degree of
action of the predisposing, and exciting causes,
this will be hereafter considered. Of the two
forms, that arising from external injuries is
universally allowed to be the most dangerous.
Tetanus generally commences with a rigidity
and pain in the extensor-muscles of the neck,
at its commencement it is not attended with
 spasmodic action, but the attention of the patient
is excited by a disagreeable sensation, which is
increased by an attempt to turn the head,
in many cases this is supposed to be nothing
more than a common Rheumatic affection of the
neck, untill the recurrence of spasm attracts notice,
and excites alarm, at this period of the
disease, uneasiness is felt at the root of the tongue,
accompanied by an unpleasant sense of constriction
of the fauces, whereby deglutition is rendered dif-
ficult, and painfully, severe pain is soon felt
at the pit of the stomach, shooting backwards

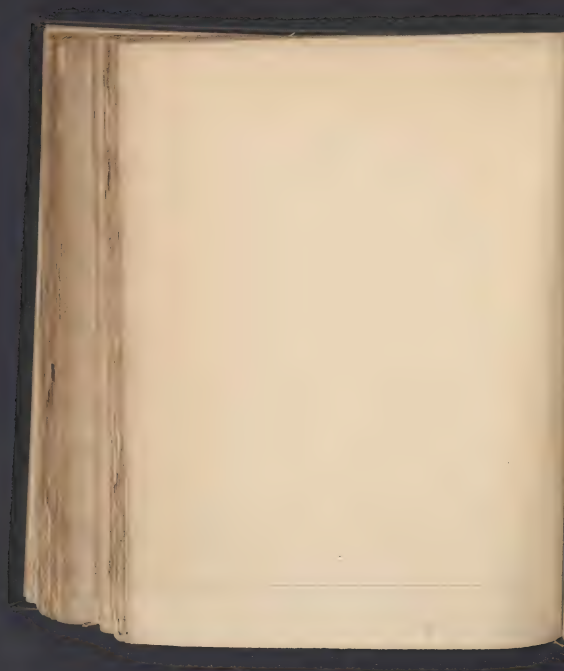


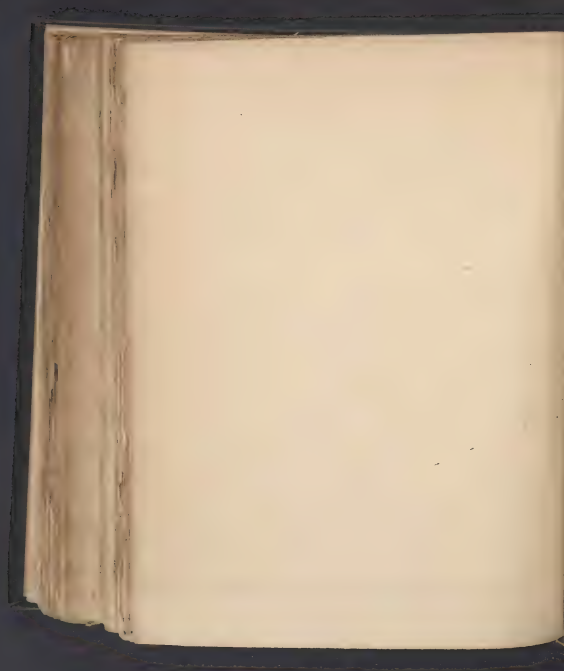
towards the spine, which comes on at intervals, and
increases in degree, with the progress of the disease.
In the occurrence of this pain, the muscles of the
back of the neck, and lower jaw, which were
before rigid and tense, are now affected with
spasm, which soon increases to such a height, that
the teeth become so closely set together as not
to admit of the smallest opening; and from this
peculiar affection originated the firm locked
jaw. Not unfrequently the spasmodick action is
limited to the parts above enumerated. In this
case, if the disease terminate favourably, the
intermissions become longer and more frequent,
the spasm and pain gradually though slowly
subside, and the patient is left in a state of extreme
debility, and considerable time is required for his
recovery. But this happy termination is exceedingly
rare. In most instances the pain augments with
the duration of the disease, and the spasm
returns with greater frequency, and increased

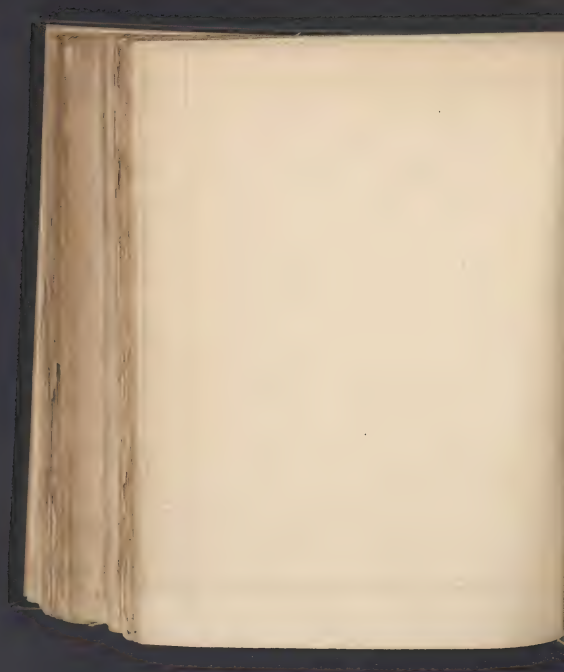






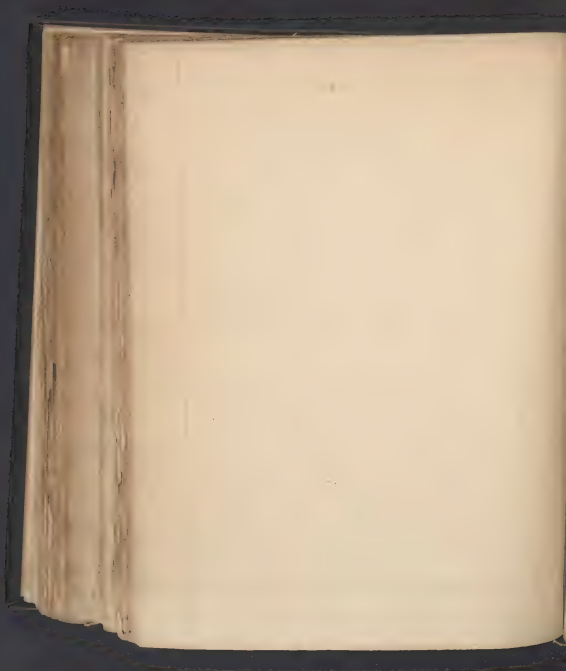


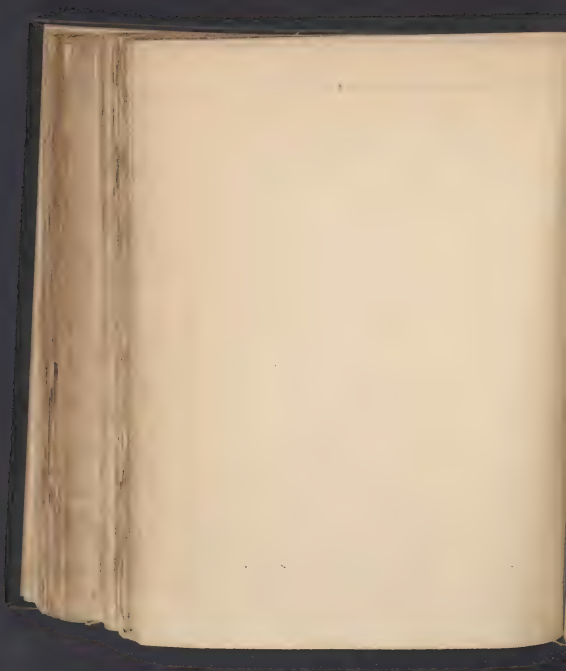


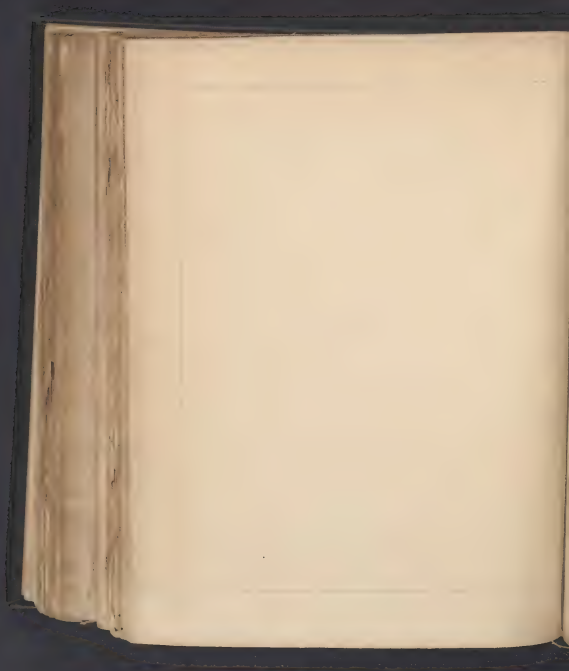




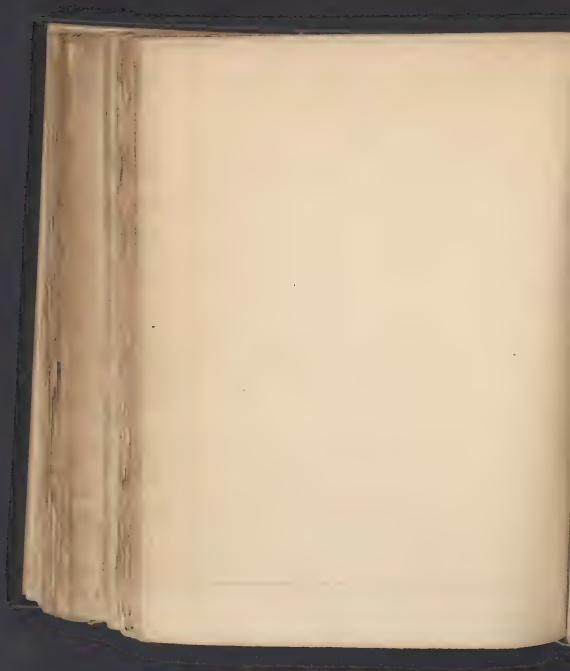














symptomatic tetanus, he endeavoured to obviate it, and for this purpose, after wounds and lacerations, he gave two or three grains of calomel twice a day untill a gentle salivation was produced, and he pursued the same plan after operations.

To prevent tetanic affections from arising ^{after} wounds and surgical operations, it is almost an universal practice on board of ships of war, to mix laudanum with the dressings, and it is said that since the adoption of this practice, these complaints seldom occur..

